
B: Policymaking Structure

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*Texas Board of
Health*

The Texas Board of Health (Board) is charged with protecting the health of the people of Texas through the adoption of policies and rules and governance of TDH. The Board has five standing committees to focus on areas of strategic management, health and clinical services, regulatory matters, human resources, and health care financing. Twenty-four adjunct advisory committees comprised of technical experts and public members give the board recommendations on detailed program policies and rule development.

The Board is composed of six non-salaried members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Four members of the Board must have a demonstrated interest in the services provided by TDH, and two members must represent the public. The Board typically meets ten times a year; however, due to the search for a new Commissioner of Health, the Board met fourteen times in Fiscal Year 1997.

A list of the current board members appears in Section III, Additional Data.

*Unique Features
of the Board*

The statutory relationship created between the Health and Human Services Commission and health and human services agencies is unique among Texas state agencies. One of the features of the relationship is the commission's mandate to review all proposed rules of the health and human services agencies and notify an agency within the designated review period if the Commission requires withdrawal or amendment of the proposed rules. Upon such notification, the agency must either withdraw or amend and resubmit the proposed rule. Prior to the establishment of the Health and Human Services Commission, the Board had the final authority on all rules.

Another unique feature of the Board's responsibilities is the operation of two state chest hospitals. The hospitals are managed by the Texas Board of Health as delegated to the Commissioner of Health or TDH employees.